(b) The follwing four districts in Karnataka have been selected to produce special bivoltine silk under the JICA project:-

1. Mandya
2. Tumkur
3. Chitradurga
4. Hassan

Assistance to the project is provided by JICA in the form of technology transfer through the services of experts, training of Indian counter-parts/CSB staff and by providing equipments.

(c) Since the project is confined to verification of technology developed in Phase I, it is not expected to bring in additional benefits directly to the weavers at this juncture. After the verification and popularisation of the technology, high quality cocoons would be available for production of quality grade silk.

Focus of Asia Society

1643. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three days conference on the focus of Asia society was held on March 5, 1997 in which a number of Asian countries and the Chief Executive Officers of International companies attended the Conference;

(b) if so, the main decisions taken in the Conference; and

(c) to what extent these decisions have been helpful to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes Sir, the conference was held In New Delhi from 6-8 March, 1997.

(b) The conference, discussed, among other things, the positive aspects of the Central budget presented in February, 1997 and the optimistic prospects for the Indian economy in the 21st century. It also discussed the greater opportunities and challenges of accelerated trade liberalisation for the Asian nations, need for partnership between India and the U.S. to address persisting problems of significant dimensions, Importance of a more involved business relationship between India and China and the significance of forums like APEC. Furthermore, India's backlog in infrastructure development, the slow and inadequate financial market reforms, lack of clear policies and rigid bureaucracy was also mentioned. The conference stressed that for the reforms to be a success, there is a need to provide basic amenities to India's rural population. The role of an enhanced education system and PSU restructuring, and the nee to bring down the high cost of money were additional factors mentioned In the conference.

(c) India's policy of economic reforms Is giving due emphasis on, inter alia, infrastructure development, removal of unnecessary red tapism and growth with social justice.

[Translation]

Currency Branch in Bhopal

1644. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to open a currency department in the Bhopal branch of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the time by which this department is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that it has been decided to have a fully mechanised Issue Department at Bhopal and necessary steps have been initiated. RBI have further reported that it is difficult to set time-limit for starting the Issue Department.

Hindi in Bank Branches

1645. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches in the A,B,C categories of the Nationalised Banks which are operating and the number Cut of categories A & B branches which perform their 75 or 100 percent work in the Official Language i.e. Hindi or how much work they do in this language;

(b) the position of the work being carried out in Hindi in these banks of 'C' category;

(c) the number of house magazines being brought out by these banks in Hindi, English, Hindi-English and other languages and whether these banks propose to bring out the special issues of these magazines on the occasion of Golden Jubilee Year of Independence; and

(d) whether the modern gadgets in these banks are bilingual and the percentage of the work being done in the Hindi using these gadgets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The proforma prescribed by Deptt. of Official Language to monitor the progressive use of Hindi in banks does not contain specific column for collecting information regarding the number of branches of banks where 75 or 100 percent work is being done in Hindi. The data furnished by RBI relates to 'A', 'B' and 'C' regions for the banks as a whole. Bankwise percentage of correspondence in Hind in regions A,B & C during the quarter ended March, 1997 is furnished in Statement-I attached.

(c) Information on magazines published by nationalised banks in region A,B, & C as provided by RBI is furnished

in Statement-II attached. As regards information on the banks' proposal to bring out special issues of their magazines on the occasion of Golden Jubilee Year of Independence, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Most of the electronic typewriters have bilingual facilities and some of the personal computers have bilingual software for word processing. The percentage of work done in Hindi on electronic typewriter and PCs in nationalised banks is furnished in Statement-III attached.

Statement-I

Percentage of Hindi Correspondence in Nationalized Bank

(As on Quarter ending March, 1997)

Name of Bank	Region A	Region B	Region C
1 2	3	4	5
1. Andhra Bank	92.36	82.53	56.38
2. Indian Overseas Bank	87.2	70.60	39.00
3. Indian Bank	58.95	53.31	16.20
4. Allahabad Bank	98.50	87.01	54.11
5. Oriental Bank of Commerce	93.96	81.9	43.2
6. Corporation Bank	67.60	48.43	50.10
7. Canara Bank	85.63	86.80	66.80
8. Dena Bank	97.96	80.66	71.89
9. Punjab & Sind Bank	60.5	20.3	9.0
10. Punjab National Bank	97.56	90.90	53.00
11. Bank of India	96.69	89.28	70.49
12. Bank of Baroda	97.62	86.09	62.82
13. Bank of Maharashtra	90.34	85.90	52.68
14. United Bank of India	69.16	48.70	27.57
15. UCO Bank	89.00	70.00	34.00
16. Union Bank of India	94.23	85.88	66.60
17. Vijaya Bank	91.40	67.36	58.10
18. Syndicate Bank	67.00	64.05	49.03
19. Central Bank of India	98.85	90.47	62.28

Statement-II

Total number of Magazines published

(Quarter ending March, 1997)

Name of Banks	Total Publication			Bilingual			English			Hindi		
Region	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
1 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1. Andhra Bank	–	–	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
2. Indian Overseas Bank	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
3. Indian Bank	3	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	1	1
4. Allahabad Bank	8	–	5	–	–	1	–	–	–	8	–	4
5. Oriental Bank of Commerce	1	1	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
6. Corporation Bank	1	1	3	1	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
7. Canara Bank	1	–	1	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8. Dena Bank	3	4	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	3	1	–
9. Punjab & Sind Bank	2	2	2	1	1	1	–	–	–	1	1	1
10. Punjab National Bank	11	3	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	9	3	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11.	Bank of India	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
12.	Bank of Baroda	–	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	1	1	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	–
14.	United Bank of India	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
15.	UCO Bank	–	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
16.	Union Bank of India	22	15	17	–	1	–	–	–	–	22	14	17
17.	Vijaya Bank	1	2	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
18.	Syndicate Bank	–	–	8	–	–	5	–	–	–	–	–	3
19.	Central Bank of India	8	3	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Statement-III

Percentage of Work done in Hindi on Electronic Typewriters and Computers

(Quarter ending March, 1997)

Name of Banks		% of work on Electronic Typewriter			% of work done of computer					
					Gist			Bilingual Software		
	Region	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Bank	–	–	20	–	25	–	–	–	6
2.	Indian Overseas Bank	50	50	–	2	3	2	–	–	–
3.	Indian Bank	–	35	–	20	115	–	–	–	5
4.	Allahabad Bank	100	87	54	56	42	–	–	–	27
5.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	73	45	25	–	–	–	–	–	–
6.	Corporation Bank	67	66	44	–	3	15	48	5	–
7.	Canara Bank	80	70	50	10	–	5	55	20	15
8.	Dena Bank	96	65	86	–	42	12	21	–	–
9.	Punjab & Sind Bank	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	–
10.	Punjab National Bank	60	75	–	8	10	5	–	–	–
11.	Bank of India	80	75	82	–	–	–	60	8	68
12.	Bank of Baroda	85	60	20	3	–	–	28	20	20
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	86	65	20	–	49	–	67	–	27
14.	UCO Bank	60	50	45	–	15	–	32	–	25
15.	United Bank of India	25	10	10	5	5	10	5	–	–

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
16. Union Bank of India	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
17. Vijaya Bank	100	66	48	–	–	–	–	–	–
18. Syndicate Bank	29	50	25	3	10	–	–	–	3
19. Central Bank of India	71	56	26	–	19	–	40	–	15

[English]

Currency Note and Coins

1646. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Mints and Currency Note Printing Presses in the country and the capacity thereof, location-wise;

(b) the location of mints and currency note printing presses under construction and the likely capacity thereof indicating the time by which these mints and presses likely to start their production;

(c) the procedure for supply of adequate number of coins and currency notes to various centres alognwith the steps taken to ensure adequate supply of coins/notes; and

(d) the proposed plans to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The details of mints and currency note printing presses in the country and their capacity are as under:

Name of Unit	Location	Existing annual capacity (in million pieces)
1) India Govt. Mint	Mumbai	750
2) India Govt. Mint	Calcutta	750
3) India Govt. Mint	Hyderabad	400
4) India Govt. Mint	Noida (UP)	2000
5) Bank Note Press	Dewas (MP)	1875
6) Currency Note Press	Nashik	4000

Reserve Bank of India is also setting up two more note printing presses, one at Mysore in Karnataka and other at Salboni in West Bengal. One line of machine (phase-I) has started production in both these presses from 1-6-96 and 11-12-96, respectively. When fully commissioned by the end of 1999, their annual production capacity will be 9900 million pieces.

The India Government Mints at Mumbai, Calcutta and Hyderabad are under modernisation for increasing their capacity as under:-

Name of Unit	Expected date of completion of Project	Capacity after modernisation (in million pieces)
1) IGM, Mumbai	31-12-98	1000
2) IGM, Calcutta	31-12-97	1000
3) IGM, Hyderabad	31-12-97	700

(c) and (d) The coins/notes are supplied to various centres through Reserve Bank of India currency chest branches of banks. With a view to increase production of coins/notes in the country, Government has taken the following steps:-

(i) Modernisation of Government of India Mints at Mumbai, Calcutta and Hyderabad;

(ii) complete coinisation of Rs.1; Rs.2; Rs.5 and diversion of spare capacity to printing of higher denomination of notes;

(iii) modernisation of existing two note printing presses at Nashik and Dewas;

(iv) setting up of two more note-printing presses under the direct control of Reserve Bank of India (i.e. one at Mysore in Karnataka and the other at Salboni In West Bengal); and

(v) import of printed notes to the extent of 3600 million pieces (of a total face value of Rs.1,00,000 crores) and 1000 million pieces of coins (of a total face value of Rs.130 crores) as a one-time measure.

International Container Depot in Maharashtra

1647. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the International container depot in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of the International Container Depots set up/being set up/being set up by the private parties; and

(c) the details of the International Container Depots likely to be set up in the Western part of the country durihg the Ninth Five Year Plan ?